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# FOREWORD

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RYAN ALEXANDER

Following on the success of our spring 2021 special issue dedicated to Brazil, I am pleased to present to you a special issue dedicated to the topic of human trafficking in the Global South. Organized by Professor of Political Science Sabella Abidde at Alabama State University, Professor of Political Science José de Arimatéia da Cruz at Georgia Southern University, and Professor of History Michael R. Hall at Georgia Southern University, this issue looks at various dynamics of human trafficking in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The collection was inspired in part by the 7th INTERPOL Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, just months before the Association of Global South Studies held its own annual meeting there. The editors of this collection have provided a brief introduction, which follows this foreword, to the project and the individual articles contained within it.

As always, I want to express my thanks to the many people who make this journal possible, including the anonymous peer reviewers who review manuscripts; the volunteer associate editors (Joseph Bangura for Africa, Srobana Battacharya for Asia, Sonia Farid for the Middle East, Tyler Ralston for the Americas, Jason Strakes for Eurasia, and Michael Hall for book reviews); Sara Abernathy, *JGSS* editorial assistant; Lauren Phillips, manager of journals at the University of Florida Press; Raven Hudson, the press's editorial assistant for journals; and the copy editors at the press.

Our parent organization, the Association of Global South Studies, was established in order to provide an international structure for the humane and scientific study of peoples, problems, and issues in the world's developing countries, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life in those places. The late Dr. Harold Isaacs, professor emeritus of history at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, founded the Association of Third

World Studies (ATWS), Inc., in 1983. The association now has a global membership and chapters in South Asia and Africa. In the summer of 2016, following a vote of the members of the association, ATWS was renamed the Association of Global South Studies (AGSS).

As ATWS, the association began its history as an institution in 1991 when, under the newly ratified ATWS constitution, elected officials assumed responsibility for the management of the organization. Since 1992, the executive headquarters have been located at Georgia Southern University (1992–2003), Mississippi State University (2003–2006), and Louisiana State University–Shreveport (2006–). Due to the dedicated and energetic leadership of Zia H. Hashmi and Paul Rodell at Georgia Southern, Shu-hui Wu at Mississippi State, and William Pederson at LSU-Shreveport, AGSS has made great progress as a global, professional organization. In 1995, the United Nations recognized the success of AGSS by granting it UN “consultative status,” thus enabling the association to increase its direct impact on world development. AGSS has an established and newly revamped website, to be found at <http://apps.gsw.edu/atws/>.

Membership in AGSS is open to any person interested in studying the developing countries. Yearly membership dues are \$60.00, which includes an annual subscription to *JGSS*. The yearly subscription rate is \$60.00; single copies are \$30.00. Discounts are available for students and those living in the developing countries. Membership and subscription forms, as well as copies of *JTWS/JGSS*, may be obtained by writing to the Association of Global South Studies, Inc., care of Ryan Alexander, History Department, SUNY-Plattsburgh, Champlain Valley Hall 224, Plattsburgh, NY 12901. Individuals interested in submitting articles to be considered, or refereed, for publication by the *JGSS* Board of Editors should write to the editor, also Ryan Alexander, at the above address. Alternatively, manuscripts may be sent to the editor via email: [ralex006@plattsburgh.edu](mailto:ralex006@plattsburgh.edu).

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in *Scopus*, *GEOBASE*, *International Bibliography of the Social Sciences (IBSS)*, *International Political Science Abstracts Database (IPSA)*, *Political Science Database*, *Sociological Abstracts*, *Historical Abstracts*, *America: History and Life*, *Periodica Islamica*, *Social Sciences Index*, *PAIS Indexes*, *CAB International (CABI)*, and others.

RYAN ALEXANDER, EDITOR



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL ISSUE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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MICHAEL R. HALL, SABELLA ABIDDE, AND JOSÉ DE ARIMATÉIA DA CRUZ

In November 2000, the United Nations adopted the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.” It stated, “‘Trafficking in persons’ shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”<sup>1</sup> The 7th INTERPOL Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September 2019—three months before the 37th Annual Association of Global South Studies (AGSS) Conference held in Argentina’s capital in December 2019. The INTERPOL conference attracted 750 participants from ninety-seven countries who focused on disrupting the “business model” of criminal enterprises behind human trafficking and migrant smuggling. In her opening remarks at the INTERPOL conference, Patricia Bullrich, Argentina’s Minister of Security, described human trafficking and migrant smuggling as “the strong over the weak—those who exploit the vulnerability for their own profit.” According to Bullrich, “It is important that we understand the essence of the crime,

not only to fight the offenders, but also to develop our ability to return freedom and peace of mind to all those who have suffered as victims.”<sup>2</sup>

While attending the AGSS conference, Professor of Political Science Sabella Abidde at Alabama State University, Professor of Political Science José de Arimatéia da Cruz at Georgia Southern University, and Professor of History Michael R. Hall at Georgia Southern University—encouraged and influenced by the success and popularity of the recent INTERPOL conference—initiated a project that would examine the issue of human trafficking in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Initially, the plan was to host a series of panels at the 38th annual AGSS conference to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in October 2020. Due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the conference was canceled. As a result, we approached Ryan Alexander, the editor of the *Journal of Global South Studies (JGSS)*, with a plan for an issue of the journal dedicated to the theme of human trafficking in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The fruition of this endeavor are the six articles by nine scholars from multiple disciplines included in this issue of the journal.

In “Theorizing Human Trafficking and Unfree Labor,” Julia Harnoncourt from the University of Luxembourg and Miguel Paredes from the University of Vienna examine human trafficking in the context of labor exploitation. The authors explain that unfree labor transpires when the workers cannot sell their labor freely. Significantly, the unfree labor condition involves a situation in which the laborer cannot end their labor relation. After placing their research in historical perspective, the authors examine the Palermo Protocol and the application of laws against human trafficking in two case studies: Bolivia and Brazil. In “Paradoxes and Anomalies in Caribbean Anti-Trafficking Law and Practice,” Jason Haynes from the University of the Birmingham assesses existing state practice on human trafficking in the Caribbean. Haynes’ study is based on empirical data collected from interviews with 50 government officials and nongovernmental organization representatives in twelve Caribbean nations. In “Comparative Analysis of Human Trafficking in Caribbean and African Islands from the Annual *Trafficking in Persons Report*,” Kathleen M. Vogel from Arizona State University examines current trends in human trafficking in African and Caribbean islands. Especially relevant is the author’s discussion of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human trafficking. In “Sun, Sand, Sex, and Safari: The Interplay of Sex Tourism and Global Inequalities

in Africa's Tourism Industry," Sitinga Kachipande from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State College reveals the increasing visibility of sex in Africa's tourism industry. According to the author, this trend has been exacerbated by globalization and impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The article draws on pop culture representations that produce and reproduce sex tourist experiences in Africa. In "Human Trafficking in the Caribbean: Developing Caribbean-Centered Ways to Fight the Crime," Gabrielle McKenzie from Debevoise & Plimpton LLP reports on human trafficking in the Caribbean. After noting the legal and social challenges to combating human trafficking in the Caribbean, the author emphasizes the importance of Caribbean-centered approaches in anti-trafficking efforts. In "Modern Anti-Trafficking Legislation and Harmful Traditional Practices: Haiti's Restavek System," Jane Charles-Voltaire from the International Association of Women Judges; Susan French, a Human Trafficking Legal Consultant who was formerly a Senior Special Counsel for Human Trafficking for the U.S. Department of Justice; and Lily Vilsine Bernadel from the School Justice Project, who graduated from Temple University Law School in May 2022, present a historical and contemporary overview of child domestic servitude in Haiti and an analysis of legislation that protects children from labor exploitation and trafficking. Haiti's Restavek System first came to my attention when I [Hall] was working as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic during the 1980s. One of the most powerful books that I have assigned in my Honors World History class—which has a unit dedicated to human trafficking—is Jean-Robert Cadet's *Restavec: From Haitian Slave Child to Middle-Class American* (1998).

## NOTES

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons> [accessed 20 May 2022].
2. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2019/Cutting-the-financial-lifelines-of-criminal-groups-behind-human-trafficking-and-people-smuggling> [accessed 5 May 2022].



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